



The UN are working towards a sustainable future through looking towards achieving these 17 goals to help make the planet sustainable. Becoming a Biosphere helps us work towards not only environmental goals but also socio-economic goals as people and enterprise are at the heart of the Biosphere.

What is a Biosphere?

Biospheres are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges.

Biospheres are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Biospheres are designated under the intergovernmental MAB Programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC). Their status is internationally recognised.



Why is Biosphere Status important?

What are the functions of a biosphere?

Each biosphere should fulfil three interconnected functions that work together and reinforce one another.

Conservation of biodiversity - to preserve genetic variation, species, ecosystems and landscapes.

Sustainable development – for a sustainable future that sustains our economy, environment and society.

Learning, research and monitoring - to support research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development.

What are the benefits of biospheres?

Biospheres provide a framework for projects that improve people's lives and protect the environment in a sustainable way. Communities, local stakeholders and government officials gain an increased awareness of environmental and development issues. Biospheres may attract funding to demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development that can provide lessons to be applied elsewhere.

Who is in charge?

The Biosphere is run and governed through a partnership of key stakeholders. Local communities are integral element ensuring the Biosphere meets its functions and objectives.

The Three Areas of a Biosphere

Different designations allow for different approaches within areas of the Biosphere.

Core area

They comprise a strictly protected zone that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation

Care (buffer) area

They surround or adjoin the core area(s) and are used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.

Sustainable Development (Transition) area

The transition area is where communities' foster socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human activities.

